

To: Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

I would like to submit my opposition against the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" (NPRM) **05-311** on "video franchising". Local franchising is important to our local cities and communities. While I can see the marketing benefits that phone and cable companies will gain (i.e. a chance to expand their monopoly on telecommunications), the price is hefty for the people most affected: local communities. Local franchising ensures control over the telecommunications and media in their area, and that telecommunications companies are accountable to the needs of consumers. Local franchising is a source of democracy, serving as a balance between differing interests of an ever-growing telecommunication conglomerates and the local communities it serves.

Preserving local franchising is also the infrastructure for Public, Education, and Governmental (PEG) TV. PEG TV provides important services that make local media possible, and the exposure of American pluralism, which shares all the different cultures to others. What PEG and local media create are locally based shows that are important in our communities. Without this existing privilege, individuals and nonprofits would never be able to distribute as well as contribute their ideas to others because they depend on the low cost of local franchising. As a fervent supporter of the First Amendment, and democracy, being a vehicle of many ideas, local franchising serves these ideals we embrace through circulation of different opinions and ideas. As a supporter of Public Access TV in Manhattan, I strongly urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of local franchises.

Regards,
John-Rene Malaya